

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2468

UNCLAS BOGOTA 6275

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, CO
SUBJECT: JET FUEL PRICING

REF: BOGOTA 5708

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED JUNE 30 FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY. INFORMAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA TO REDUCE THE PRICE PAID BY AMERICAN AIRLINES FOR THEIR FUEL AND TO OBTAIN THE REFUND OF SALES TAXES PAID BY BRANIFF AIRWAYS, INC., IN APPLICATION OF THE AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SIGNED OCTOBER 24, 1956, AND AS A RESULT OF THE OBLIGATIONS ENTERED INTO AT THE MEETING OF DELEGATIONS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES ON MARCH 14.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ALREADY INFORMED THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE EMPRESA COLOMBIANA DE PETROLEOS, ECOPETROL, OF THE POSSIBLE IMPORTATION BY AMERICAN COMPANIES OF THEIR OWN JET FUEL. THE DETAILS FOR IMPLEMENTATION REMAIN TO BE DETERMINED. THE RESOLUTION OF THE MINISTRY OF
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FINANCE THAT WOULD PERMIT THE IMPORTATION TO BE FREE OF TAXES, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS STILL PENDING. THIS MINISTRY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE REGARDING THIS MATTER AND A QUICK DECISION IS EXPECTED. FURTHERMORE, IT IS PERTINENT TO INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT ECOPETROL MIGHT AUTHORIZE SPECIAL PRICES TO BRANIFF THROUGH CERTAIN INCENTIVES

OF A FINANCIAL CHARACTER AND ADVANCE PURCHASES OF LARGE VOLUMES OF FUEL. THE MINISTRY UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS ALTERNATIVE WILL BE DISCUSSED DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE INTERESTED COMPANY AND ECOPETROL.

WITH RESPECT TO THE REFUND OF SALES TAXES PAID BY BRANIFF AIRWAYS INC. AND THE LEGAL MECHANISM THAT WOULD PERMIT THE AVOIDANCE OF PRE-PAYMENT BY MEANS OF DECREE, RESOLUTION, ETC., THIS MATTER HAS BEEN DEALT WITH DIRECTLY BY OFFICIALS OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL TAXES AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT ON THIS POINT. IT WILL BE A PLEASURE FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO INFORM THE EMBASSY AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY OF THE ANSWERS RECEIVED AND THE RESULTS OBTAINED.

THE GOOD WILL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA IN THE SEARCH FOR EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED PROBLEMS IS EVIDENT IN THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPHS AND FOR THIS REASON THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS WOULD VIEW WITH PLEASURE THE AUTHORIZATION BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, IN A NEW GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, OF AVIANCA'S FUEL QUOTA FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1977.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE HONORABLE EMBASSY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR REPLY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.
DREXLER

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NNN

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